



Milwaukee County

Board of Supervisors

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For Immediate Release

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2007 BUDGET PRESERVES ONE OF AMERICA'S TOP TRANSIT PROVIDERS

Board members roll back fare increases for frequent riders

Milwaukee, WI – During the County Board's budget adoption hearing last Monday, Supervisors approved a plan to reduce fare increases for the most frequent Milwaukee County Transit System bus riders. Adult tickets and weekly passes will increase from \$14 to \$16, rather than the \$17 under the County Executive's plan. Increases were also scaled back for special student passes and commuter value passes. The regular cash fare will stay at \$1.75.

MCTS consistently ranks as one of America's best and most cost-effective transit providers in the U.S., and Supervisor James White wants to keep it that way. He's the Chairman of the Board's Transportation, Public Works, and Transit Committee. "The County Executive proposed the biggest increase in fares ever," White said. "We're cutting that increase by 33 percent. Because the more you raise fares, the more you'll drive people away from using the system."

At a public hearing last month, Board members heard from hundreds of residents who want to preserve routes and keep fare increases to a minimum. Supervisor John Weishan said Walker's plan amounted to "a tax increase on bus riders, to the tune of hundreds of dollars per year". Supervisor Roger Quindel said, "We don't want to punish the disabled, elderly, or people going to work and school." Supervisor Michael Mayo, Jr. is looking for a long-term solution. "I'd like a dedicated funding source for the Milwaukee County Transit System, to take these services off the property tax rolls," Mayo said.

One service that's been off the tax rolls for many years is Mitchell International Airport. Despite at least one state lawmaker pushing for a hostile takeover of operations at Mitchell, Board members continue to show leadership in the operation of Milwaukee County's airports. For 2007, the Board approved a plan for major capital improvements and ongoing terminal maintenance and repair projects at Mitchell International. Readers of *Condé Nast Traveler* agree, ranking Mitchell best in the nation in several categories.

The County Board will vote on any vetoes from the County Executive on Wednesday, November 15th, 1:30pm, in Room 200 of the Milwaukee County Courthouse.

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